



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries predicted today that the Pacific coast pilchard industry, the nation's largest fishery, may make a "satisfactory showing" toward attaining the goal of five million cases set for the 1945-46 season.

The pack of canned pilchards or Pacific sardines, since the opening of the season on August 1, had totaled 2,348,671 cases by November 10, compared with only 1,898,046 cases packed during the comparable period in 1944. The catch, on the other hand, is lagging behind last year's figures by about 63,000 tons.

Officials of the Coordinator's Office, which administers a production program for the fishery, said that it has been possible to pack a larger percentage of the catch this year largely because of the easing of the man-power situation in the canneries. Pilchards which are not canned are made into meal and oil.

A goal of five million cases of canned pilchards, which is above the average output of this industry, was set for the current season because of the critical world shortage of protein foods. Canned fish such as pilchards provide an inexpensive and easily transportable source of such food. The goal can be reached only if normal fishing conditions prevail for the balance of the season and if the canneries continue to pack at the high rate maintained so far, it was emphasized.

Approximately half of the season's goal had been attained by mid-November. Pilchard fishing continues until February 15 in northern California and until March 1 in the southern part of the state. The largest catches are made during the winter months.